

MISSOURI MENTORING PARTNERSHIP

The Missouri Mentoring Partnership (MMP) is structured around an alliance between the public and private sectors. MMP implements structured work site and community mentoring opportunities for youth. There are nine community partnership sites in Missouri. Its program goal is to assist young people, through mentored employment and support, gain and develop work experience and ethics. MMP staff provides resource coordination for participants and volunteer mentors are recruited from the community. Mentors provide positive role modeling, friendship and guidance around employment and parenting issues to youth who are entering the workplace or have become parents. The objectives of MMP are to encourage continuation of education and to provide employment opportunities enhanced through mentoring.

At risk youth who have been raised in foster care or by impoverished families are at great risk to be unemployed as adults. CD refers these youth, ages 16-21 through an application process. MMP also accepts referrals for at-risks and teen parenting youth from youth services, schools and the health department. An application is submitted and reviewed by MMP staff. MMP staff contacts youth for the interview/assessment process and determines which youth are appropriate for the program. Before youth are assigned a mentor or can begin a job search, they must complete 20-30 hours of job readiness training. This training consists of “soft skills”, resume preparation, and mock interviews. There is a deemed level of pass/fail for each of the three components. Once they have passed and been assigned, mentors are asked to give a one-year commitment. Approximately 20 percent of the youth served were in foster care.